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UNCLAS ANKARA 003832

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/NGA - NJENSEN AND EUR/SE  
DEPT PASS TO USAID FOR OFDA

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [I2](#)

SUBJECT: GOT Offer of Assistance on Iraqi Hotels

Ref: Sirotic/IAC/OCPA Email 6/11/03

[11.](#) (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

[12.](#) (SBU) This cable contains an action request in para

[15.](#)

[13.](#) (SBU) In a June 11 meeting with Econ Counselor, Ambassador Ahmet Okcun, MFA Coordinator for Afghanistan and Iraq, conveyed a GOT plan to fund construction of and equipment for 2 hospitals in Baghdad and Kirkuk, based on an assessment done by the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) in a recent visit to Iraq. However, this would not be a TRC project, but a Turkish Government project. Okcun stated that the GOT already has the funds allocated for this and the blueprints for construction. Okcun stated that, for budgetary and other internal reasons, the GOT would need to sign an MOU on these projects, and asked that the USG advise which entity in Iraq would be the appropriate counterpart for such an MOU. He suggested the GOT would be pleased to work sign an MOU with the Iraqi Red Crescent, which already has identified a plot of land in Baghdad for one hospital.

[14.](#) (SBU) In a separate meeting the following day with Mission Disaster Relief Officer, TRC Director General Fatih Evren raised the Turkish offer on hospitals for Iraq, but emphasized that MFA had the lead in coordinating with the USG on this issue. MDRO encouraged TRC to coordinate aid activities with the International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent, and asked whether TRC had done so on this offer. Evren stated that TRC preferred to work with U.S. authorities or with the Iraqi Red Crescent on aid, claiming that ICRC was not forthcoming in responding to offers of assistance from national societies outside Iraq. MDRO suggested to Evren that TRC and/or MFA make a written proposal on hospitals, which the Embassy could share with appropriate Washington and Coalition Provisional Authority staff.

[15.](#) (U) Action Request: Embassy would appreciate Department/OCPA's thoughts on the MFA's proposal, as well as guidance on the appropriate authorities in Iraq with which the MFA should pursue this..  
Pearson